

# Thomas Days in Arizona

By JOHN A. SPRING.

The region bordering on the Colorado River on the west, on the Grand Canyon on the north and traversed by the Southern Pacific on the south, has at all times offered rich and continuous grazing. The pursuit of this industry had attracted the cattlemen, and in the early days of Arizona by constant depredations of the Apaches, too frequently accompanied by bloodshed. In the beginning of the 1800s the cattlemen, feeling that the reservation and Indian Agency at San Carlos had become a fixture, and contributed to a great extent toward keeping the Apaches within certain boundaries, had introduced large herds upon the ranges lying south of the "Rim," so called on account of its forming the southern limit of the Mexican range. It is well known that the Indians were more afraid of three cowboys than of 10 soldiers. Small manning bands of the Indians, as well as those living upon the White Mountain Reservation, near Fort Bowie (formerly Cochise's), after 1876 Geronimo's band, would slip out secretly from the reservation and commit all the devilry that opportunity offered. It is also said, and I believe, has been proven in several instances, that small parties of Apaches were granted a short leave of absence by manner of a written pass signed by the Indian Agent, ostensibly in order to hunt deer and antelope, which game was then very plentiful over that region, and that such small bands did not always limit their exploits to the legitimate object for which the pass was given.

The cowboys, living if not brave, in fact, it would seem that fear has for them only an abstract meaning, and is not known by them in its concrete form. A general outlook from San Carlos, it is true, was not an infrequent occurrence in those days, and might be expected at almost any time until the Chiricahua Apaches were captured by Gen. Miles, and incontinently sent far away from their mountain fastnesses and the theater of their murderous raids. Whenever such an outbreak occurred, it was by means of appearances, according to the principle that "coming events cast their shadows before." The cattlemen and their cowboys were generally prepared to meet such contingencies, and the Apaches knew, and would invariably direct their flight southward, into the Mexican State of Sonora, where they had many hiding places in the mountain fastnesses of the Sierra Madre.

FOR A COWBOY YOUTHL.

The Fourth of July, 1881, was coming on, and the cowboys were so busy on the "Rim" passed the word along from ranch to ranch that a meeting would be held on a certain day in May, at a central location called "Tommy's place." The purpose of taking concerted steps toward holding a grand celebration of the Nation's anniversary of independence. This call was attended to by the cowboys, and the place selected for the celebration was that shady Walnut Grove, through which runs a babbling brook of mountain water, clear and cool, and the cowboys were appointed to take charge of the business in hand; one on finance, that took charge of the contributions and disbursements; another on the management of the program, including ceremonies and refreshments; and a third, called the Committee of Invitations, and was charged with the Mexican "ragueros," with families, who undertook to induce a large contingent of dark-eyed señoritas to grace the occasion by their presence.

The contribution was opened on the spot and dropped into the committee bag with a liberality known to and practiced only by the cowboys. The committee, promising a liberal supply of tin, "tamaleños," enchiladas, and other Mexican delicacies, banded at once in preparation for the bunting and flags, which material was easily obtained from the store of the Indian trader at San Carlos and at Holbrook, the nearest railway station and railway car on the Southern Pacific route. The Committee of Arrangements prepared a list of assorted liquid refreshments, canned goods, sweetmeats and fireworks, and sent it to Tucson, with request that the goods be shipped, without fail, to reach Holbrook not later than July 1.

HANK AND YANK.

The most active members of this latter community were the two cowboys mentioned above, employed by the HC ranch, as they would be called. It was Hank and Yank, respectively, and were men of splendid physique and undaunted daring, with which they united many social qualities. They were fast friends, or, in their vernacular, chums, clinging to one another with that inseparable companionship and mutual devotion which is supposed to have existed between Damon and Pythias of old.

The danger of encountering hostile Apaches while abroad was at all times much reduced by the fact that they were traveling at night, and the night, therefore, when Hank and Yank received notice from the freight agent at Holbrook that their stuff had arrived. They procured a stage, and with two stout mules, with which they drove to the railway station, a distance of about 40 miles, during the night of May 31. They rested their team during the following day, with the intention of starting with their load toward nightfall. It would seem, however, that the royal game of poker, with which they were well versed, retarded their start, and it was well toward midnight when they pulled out from Holbrook. A 10-ton car of whisky constituted one package of the freight, and several boxes of sweet wine, intended for the ladies, and 12 boxes of assorted fireworks of Chinese manufacture, packed in light and thin board cases, completed the load. Hank and Yank sat side by side upon the high wagon seat, their revolvers in their belts, their rifles within reach. When morning dawned they were still about 20 miles from their destination; they were traveling slowly at the time, not only on account of the steep grade they were ascending, but also because they had heard the party sandy, partly rocky ground of a small and narrow canyon, a branch of the long and dark Devil's Canyon.

Suddenly the mules made a tremendous jump to the right, the wagon struck a big rock, and the shock precipitated the two men from their high perch to the rocks below. At the same time they heard some shots fired in their immediate vicinity, and the fearful Apache yell, well known by its peculiar "tremolo." Being knocked almost senseless from the violence of their fall, they could not realize at once what was doing, and before they had time to think at all, the Apaches were upon them, four or five to each, and they tied hand and foot, upon which they were dumped into the wagon. Neither of them had been wounded, because the sudden fright of the mules had thwarted the aim of the Indians. The animals had either suddenly scented the Apaches coming around a turn in the road, or perhaps had seen one moving in the bushes along the edge of the narrow road.

It is firmly believed along the frontier that a mule will scent an Apache quicker and farther than any other animal. The inseparables were thrown in the wagon like so much freight, while their captors, who had succeeded in righting the running gear and partly quieting the

minutest details of his adventure. His closing remarks were: "I tell you, ladies and gentlemen, these fireworks went off beautifully; they were the most all-fired, double-bottom, copper-headed and brass-riveted free show anybody ever seen anywhere. I only regretted that I could not stay to see the going off of the spread eagle in red, white and blue lights which I had specially ordered. But that box had not been opened, and lay at the bottom; it must have gone off last. You see, I could not stop till that box got lit, as I had a pressing desire to join the ladies in the dance!"

I returned from Yank's dream of the latter part of July, about the time the employer, Mr. Goodman. He had employed another book-keeper in my stead during the meantime. However, he told me, strictly in confidence, that he would be glad to employ me again, if he thought that he could "stand the press," by which expression he meant, if he would be able to meet his indebtedness. In the hope that his business would go on increasing as it had begun, he had bought a lot and was then building quite an extensive store, while formerly he had carried on his business in a rented place. He had underestimated the expense involved in the new building, and felt himself now financially

around, and all the Agostinos and Agostinos kept open house. But gradually these depredations from these beginnings, principally with the advantage of the American trading bars and gambling houses, the holding of a feast, which, little by little, from year to year, increased in volume and duration, until in 1881 it had assumed the character of a three weeks'—well, let us say "apree." When I reached Tucson in 1880, the Feast of St. Augustine lasted only two days, and the only popular amusements then in vogue upon the church plaza was a little gambling, principally at the simple game of "monte," upon a common pine table, and a dancing, the rattle under a shed constructed upon the center of the plaza.

But early in 1881 the church plaza was found too small and the feast was moved to the much larger Courthouse Plaza. The city then, in order to derive some benefit from the proceedings, which at that time extended over ten days, held an annual public auction of the privilege of occupying the plaza for the term of 10 days, to the highest bidder. This man then began to offer his ground, and he was the privilege of erecting booths for drinking-lars, gambling-tables, fruit, candy, lemonade, and cigar-stands by the front or square side of the plaza. Several of the principal offering the quite palatable Mexican dishes, were also opened.

AN ANNUAL GAMBLE.

On Aug. 28, in the evening, the ball was sent a-rolling. I could never understand, and cannot now, how it came about that the position of the town could keep up a feast of that kind for three weeks. The fact, however, remains that night after night the people of Tucson came upon the plaza grounds, ate Mexican and American dishes, drank liquor and gambled. State-matrons accompanied by their husbands and children would sit by the hour around the Chusa tables and bet pines of money, or even for quarters, but dollars, dollars, half-eagles, eagles and double eagles. This game is little known in the United States. I think it originated in Mexico, or perhaps old Spain. At all events, the Chusa tables were at all times surrounded by a multitude of people, the Americans liking the game and patronizing it fully as much as the Mexicans.

I have seen many people of the best standing in the community playing at this game by the hour, and it seems that no one lost, and that the game was entirely his or her reputation by indulging in it. The faro, rouge et noir, roulette, monte and dice tables were also well patronized, principally by the Americans. I remember, however, also, many respectable citizens who would not dream of investing a five-cent piece in a game of chance during the remainder of the year, but who would indulge in the game during the feast. There were at least 20 drinking-bars upon the premises, besides innumerable ice-cream, fruit, candy, lemonade, and cigar-stands. The feast was a social quack, with its Indian medicines, etc.

In the middle of the square stood a wooden platform, an improvement over the earth floor, and here the rattle dined and of yore, and to the same music and tones that I had first heard 12 years before. In the middle of the square, which was for years produced by the same Papago Indians, their home-made fiddles, consisted of only two distinguishable tunes or airs. One did service for polka, schottisch, waltz and quadrille, and the other for the faster or slower movements of each dance. The other was the so-called "Pasapago," a distinctly Papago dance. What these native dances were, I cannot say, but the accomplishments they made up by perseverance, for they daily played the tunes continuously from 4 o'clock p. m. until long after midnight, from 1876 to 1881 the Mexican dollar had been brought over the line in very large amounts, and taken by the Tucson merchants at par. Now their value had decreased, and they were accepted at a discount of 25 per cent. The town of Nogales sprang up, being built upon the very frontier line which divided it into an American and Mexican town, large stores being promptly erected on either side. For many years one could buy much cheaper in Nogales than in Tucson, on account of the 30 miles free zone, which the Mexican Government had established south of and adjoining Nogales.

SCOUNDRELS CHEAT RASCALS.

There was still another reason which kept many Mexican purchasers away from Tucson, and this was, to our shame be it said, the bad practice of a few merchants when dealing with Mexican smugglers.

MR. SPRING REMARKS.

Soon after my return I found that I was in a serious predicament with regard to my four children, the eldest of whom was a girl only nine years of age. The others were respectively seven, five and three years, all now motherless. The younger of my wife's sisters, who had accompanied me to Yank's on the last trip, at Yank's place, had been killed by a law, were perfectly willing to take charge of my household, but the two sons of the old lady had also to be provided for in a household where there was no room for them. In almost any other country my sister-in-law could have acted as my housekeeper, but in a Mexican community the house could not be so easily managed. At that moment, that a single woman not a blood relation to a man should live in his house. Therefore, knowing that she would make a splendid mother for my children, I married her. I never regretted this step, as she has ever since been to me a good, kind companion and an equally good mother to my offspring.

I was not particularly anxious to enter anybody's employ at that time, as I had just entered the service of a newspaper, and the "Illinois Staatszeitung," and wrote a weekly story for its Sunday supplement; also, several articles for the "Illinois," an ethnological journal issued at Bloomington, Germany, and several descriptive articles of travel in Mexico for the "Journal des Voyages," published at Paris, France. These different languages I never proved any serious obstacle to me, because in the high schools and colleges of Switzerland foreign languages are taught and learned much as a manner as to stay with you for life.

However, my brother-in-law, Mr. A. Levin, who was the owner of the Park Brewery, and who had been in the habit of pressing me to take charge of the preparations and subsequently to run the San Augustine Feast, which would begin on Aug. 28, required an explanation. This, however, requires an explanation. The children of the orthodox Catholic parents (the mothers are almost without exception such of any Mexican population receive, as a rule, at their baptism as Christian name the name of the Saint, as indicated by the calendar of the Catholic Church. Thus, one born on June 24 (St. John Baptist), would receive the name John, if a girl (Juan and Juana respectively). To this name there is generally added that of the godfather and godmother. This latter relation is taken by the godfather and godmother, and the godmother of a girl must be very poor, indeed, if she does not manage to procure for her godchild's first communion the age of 12 or 13, a new white muslin dress and a veil of Swiss muslin, upon which a crown or wreath of flowers is fastened. Mexican parents are very particular about the reception of their friends, and not unfrequently an impromptu dance is gotten up on these occasions. The young swains who have sweethearts will engage a number of musicians and give the maiden a serenade under their windows about midnight on the preceding day.

All the Spanish missions (missions, garison towns), hamlets and convents were put under the special protection of one particular Saint, who was supposed to be the patron and guardian of the place. The particular saint whose protection the town of Tucson was supposed to enjoy was St. Augustine, whose day feast is the 28th of August, 1870. The feast celebrated in honor of this patron saint was mainly of a religious nature, and was very solemn, a procession went

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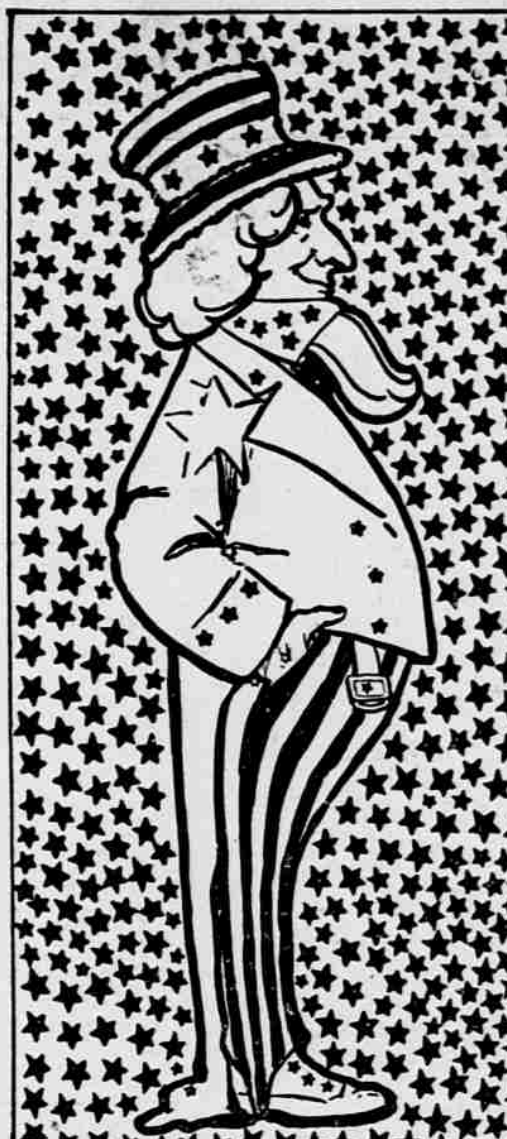
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# FREE

Three Pianos! \$800 in Cash GIVEN AWAY

PRIZES FOR ALL WHO COUNT RIGHT There are No Blanks If You Count Right You Win

THE following splendid prizes will be given away by The People's Popular Monthly. The prizes are: First Prize—Piano, \$800; Second Prize—Piano, \$400; Third Prize—Cash, \$200; Fourth Prize—Cash, \$100; Fifth Prize—Cash, \$50; Sixth Prize—Cash, \$25; Seventh Prize—Cash, \$10; Eighth Prize—Cash, \$5; Ninth Prize—Cash, \$2; Tenth Prize—Cash, \$1. The prizes are given away to the winners of the People's Popular Monthly. The winners are chosen by a drawing of lots. The drawing of lots will be held on the 15th of October, 1903. The winners will be notified by mail. The prizes are given away to the winners of the People's Popular Monthly. The winners are chosen by a drawing of lots. The drawing of lots will be held on the 15th of October, 1903. The winners will be notified by mail. The prizes are given away to the winners of the People's Popular Monthly. The winners are chosen by a drawing of lots. The drawing of lots will be held on the 15th of October, 1903. The winners will be notified by mail.

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